



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

ACTION ALERT!

CITIES LOSING LOCAL CONTROL WHICH PROTECTS PUBLIC HEALTH

STOP SB 1165

A committee substitute for HB 40 was voted out of the Energy Resources committee yesterday. We presented comments at the hearing opposing the bill. Our position supports: “[Maximum home rule for municipal and county governments with coordination of overlapping functions.](#)”

SB 1165, the Senate companion bill to HB 40 was voted out of committee last Tuesday and is soon headed for a Senate floor vote. These bills provide preemption of regulation of oil and gas operations and the exclusive jurisdiction of those operations by the state.

Over 300 speakers went to the House hearing. Citizens and city officials spoke against the bill while the industry supports the bill which will allow them to surpass local control to get approval to drilling next to homes, hospitals, schools, businesses, etc. Emissions from drilling sites emit numerous harmful and carcinogenic chemicals into the air and water. If the oil and gas industry can take away local control on drilling within city limits, public health will be affected as research has shown that public health is affected when drilling is as close as a mile away. Government is best when it is nearest to the people. Every city and site has special considerations that need to be met to ensure the health and safety of its residents. Accidents happen often but are not generally publicized. For example, a 750' wide hole was made at one drilling site by an oil rig explosion.

Maintain local control in your city, county and stop preemption of regulation of oil and gas regulations and the exclusive jurisdiction of those operations by the state.

Contact your state senator to vigorously oppose and SB 1165. This bad bill, among many others, simply cannot be allowed to pass.

Thank you!

Elaine M. Wiant,

President

You may find the telephone number of your senator or representative [here](#):

http://www.texastribune.org/directory/#texas_senate_tab Click on the name of your senator or representative and contact information will come up.